

## **Part of the Effort**

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Command Chaplain

Recently, I was at the Fitness Center on Base. After I had finished my routine, I was walking around cooling off and drinking some water. One of our young Marines was working at the Fitness Center, and as he walked by, I asked him how he was enjoying his part in the war on terrorism. He indicated that he didn't feel like he was contributing too much to it. I told him that I had a different view of it. As I explained to him, he is helping to operate a facility that allows Marines and Sailors to maintain a high level of fitness. This is important, so that if someone is tasked with deploying overseas, he or she has been able to keep their body in its top level of condition. While this Marine may not feel like he is contributing much, I believe he has one of the most important jobs on this base.

While it is true that "every Marine is a rifleman," not every Marine is primarily a trigger puller. We all have a part to play and every part is equally important. We simply need to realize how our mission where we are fits in with the overall mission of the Marine Corps. While someone may have a personal desire to make more of a direct impact on world events, someone else could not function as effectively without each of us serving where we are.

It is important to remember that while every role is unique, it is also important. The Bible talks about this with regard to our place in the Church. Paul likens it to a body and says that each part is vital and functions most effectively when each works in concert with the other parts and doesn't try to fill a role for which it was not designed. In other words, an eye should not be jealous of the foot, or the ear should not try to perform the tasks that the hand was designed to do. Of course, we realize this is not possible, but when we each look at the part that we play in life and at work, we are able to feel better about what we do and not jealous of what another does.

I happen to think that the Marine working at MCCS is just a vital to the war on terrorism at the Marine deployed at the tip of the spear or a General Officer making strategic plans. We each have an important role to play. We simply need to commit ourselves to doing what we do to the best of our ability. In fact, we need to remember that what we do has a tremendous ripple effect. If I don't help take care of some Marine's family, that Marine may have difficulty focusing on his task. That in turn may cause him to miss something that will affect someone adversely later on. My actions here can have a tremendous impact, positive or negative, on someone farther down the line.

So to the Marine working at the Fitness Center, good job, Devil Dog! You made a difference today.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.